

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00517 270852Z

15

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2051

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UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0517

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SOPN, GR

SUBJECT: WEEKEND PRESS HIGHLIGHTS, AUGUST 23-25

1. WEEKEND THESSALONIKI PRESS DEVOTED ALMOST WHOLLY TO CYPRUS-RELATED ISSUES, WITH PRIMARY FOCUS ON FOLLOWING HEADLINED SUBJECTS:

A) SOVIET PROPOSAL - "CONSIDERABLY FAVORS GREEK POSITION" (MAKEDONIA): " RUSSIAN PLAN HAS DISTURBED TURKS" (MAK): "BATTLE OVER RUSSIAN PLAN" (THESSALONIKI).

B) BRITISH CONFERENCE PROPOSAL - "BRITISH PRESSURES", (THESSALONIKI): " GREECE REFUSES TAKE PART IN NEW GENEVA CONFERENCE" (MAKEDONIA): "TURKEY PREFERS NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA" (VORRAS).

C) SECRETARY KISSINGER' S ROLE - "BAKER CRITICISM: CYPRUS CRISIS CONSTITUTES ONE GREAT POLITICAL FAILURE OF AMERICAN SECSTATE" (THESSALONIKI): "KISSINGER DOES NOT FAVOR PARTITIONING CYPRUS" (VORRAS): " KISSINGER PROPOSAL AS SOON AS GREECE ACCEPTS SOVIET PLAN" (MAKEDONIA).

D) CLERIDES MEETINGS IN ATHENS - "GREECE AND CYPRUS WILL JOINTLY CONTINUE STRUGGLE UNTIL JUST SOLUTION FOUND" (MAK).

E) ANDERSON STATEMENT - "WE ARE NOT LEAVING UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00517 270852Z

GREECE: GREECE IS VALUABLE MEMBER OF ALLIANCE"

(VORRAS): "AMERICANS INSIST IN KEEPING BASES IN GREEK SPACE" (THESS).

F) WALDHEIM VISIT TO NICOSIA: "AGONIZING MEDIATION WITH MR. WALDHEIM: CLERIDES AND DENKTASH MEET WITH HIM TODAY" (THESS).

G) IOANNIDIS RETIREMENT (STRAIGHT).

H) CLERIDES GUERRILLA WAR THREAT - "TURKS ARE FRIGHTENED: THREATEN RETALIATION" (MAK): " VIOLENT REACTION FROM ANKARA" (VORRAS).

I) KARAMANLIS - "I AM OPTIMISTIC, I HAVE AFFECTION OF PEOPLE, AND I CONTROL ARMY" (GERMAN PRESS INTERVIEW IN "THESSALONIKI"): KARAMANLIS RECOMMENDS PSYCHIC UNION WITH CYPRIOTS IN WARM MESSAGE" (MAKEDONIA): "MOMENT FOR NATIONAL STRUGGLE, IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS" (VORRAS): "BIG RECEPTION BY ALL PEOPLE FOR KARAMANLIS IN THESSALONIKI NEXT SATURDAY" (VORRAS).

J) ATROCITIES - (VORRAS ONLY) " TURKS KILL 50 CYPRIOTS IN COLD BLOOD, CONTINUING THEIR ATROCITIES".

2. ON AUGUST 24 AND 25, "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" RAN TWO ARTICLES BY ITS CHIEF EDITOR , ELIAS KYROU, AGAIN ATTACKING US. FIRST, REFERRING TO PENTAGON STATEMENT THAT GREECE HAD AMMUNITION SUFFICIENT ONLY FOR FIFTEEN DAYS, SAYS US WANTED GREECE "BAREFOOT AND UNABLE TO DEFEND HERSELF". BY CONTRAST, IN 1940 GREECE HAD ENOUGH SHELLS FOR SIX MONTHS, WAS SELF-SUFFICIENT AND STRONGER. THIS "ABSURD AND CRIMINAL" SITUATION, WRITES KYROU, IS REASON ALONE FOR WITHDRAWING FROM NATO , ADDING THAT CONTENTION NATO ALLY TURKEY ALSO HAD ENOUGH AMMUNITION FOR ONLY TWO WEEKS' FIGHTING MERELY COMPOUNDS CRIME. IN SECOND ARTICLE, EDITOR CHARGES THAT IN CYPRUS "NEW DACHAU" HAS BEEN CREATED WITH 500,000 GREEKS, INSTEAD OF JEWS, WHO WILL BE EXTERMINATED OR BECOME REFUGEES. THIS "NEW DACHAU" , HE SAYS, HAS BEEN CREATED BY US AND USSR, BY KISSINGER AND BREZHNEV, WHO HAVE DIVIDED CYPRUS AS HITLER DIVIDED POLAND WITH STALIN. IN THIS "NEW YALTA" AGREEMENT, SOVIETS HAVE ASSURED INTEGRITY OF ISRAEL AND US INTERESTS IN MIDDLE EAST, IN RETURN FOR FREE HAND AND OUTLET TO MEDITERRANEAN IN BALKANS, WRITES KYROU. HE WARNS THAT THIS "DISASTROUS POLICY" OF KISSINGER WILL LEAD

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PAGE 03 THESSA 00517 270852Z

SURELY TO FURTHER SOVIET ENCROACHMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND TO EVENTUAL ISOLATION OF US.

3. ALL PAPERS DIRECTED ATTENTION TO ANNOUNCED VISIT HERE AUGUST 31 OF PM KARAMANLIS TO INAUGURATE THESSALONIKI FAIR. ACCOMPANIED BY CABINET MEMBERS, KARAMANLIS EXPECTED TO MAKE MAJOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SPEECH. COORDINATING

COMMITTEE FORMED, AND UNIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS RALLYING POPULACE TO MOUNT MAJOR CELEBRATION FOR PM' S RETURN TO NATIVE MACEDONIA.

4. UNDER HEADING "WHAT WAS NOT WRITTEN DURING SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD OF DICTATORSHIP", "THESSALONIKI" RUNNING FULL-PAGE FEATURES DAILY ON SINS AND SHORT-COMINGS OF PATTAKOS, DESPINA PAPADOPOULOU, ANDROUTSOPOULOS, IOANNIDIS, AND OTHER FIGURES OF POST-1967 GOVERNMENTS.

5. SDRAKAS CASE (THESSALONIKI 0503 AND 0508) KEPT ALIVE BY MAJOR ARTICLE IN MAKEDONIA AUGUST 25 UNDER TITLE "WHAT HAPPENED ON NOVEMBER 17, 1973, AND NEVER DISCLOSED", WHICH DESCRIBES ARMY' S ARREST OF 500 STUDENTS AT POLYTECHNION THAT DAY, AND GIVES NAMES OF THIRTY-FIVE WHO WERE HELD. ALL PAPERS CARRY LETTERS FROM PARENTS OF TWO OF LATTER, WHO CHARGE SDRAKAS WITH COMPLICITY WITH MILITARY REGIME, SUPPORTED BY PICTURES OF HIM WITH IOANIDIS, PAPADOPOULOS, LEONIDAS, ETC.
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